

# ***Firearm Safety***

The safe use of firearms is everyone's concern. Each year, tragic – often lethal – accidents occur because of the unsafe use, handling, and storage of rifles, revolvers, and other firearms. If you own a firearm, learn how it works, read and follow the manufacturer's instructions, and follow these recommendations for firearm safety.

**Ask yourself these firearm safety questions EVERY time you handle your firearms:**

- Is the firearm loaded?
- Is the firearm locked or secured in a rack or gun safe?
- Is the locked rack or gun safe in an area away from children?
- Did you check the firearm before storing?
- When handling the firearm do you keep your finger off the trigger?
- When you handle a firearm is the action opened immediately to check for ammunition?
- Has the handler of the firearm completed a firearms safety course or its equivalent?
- Are all of your firearms in good working order?
- Do you always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction?
- Is the whole family familiar with the firearms in the home and with firearm safety?
- If the firearm has been regularly used, has it been inspected by a gunsmith in the last two years?
- Is the ammunition stored in a separate place than the firearm?
- Is the ammunition locked or secured?
- Do you treat every firearm as if it is loaded at all times?
- Do you handle firearms while impaired?
- If children use firearms to hunt, have they attended the hunter's safety course?
- Is the ammunition in a box which identifies it accurately?

